



**CITY OF NEW HAVEN
BOARD OF ALDERS**

*165 Church St.
New Haven, CT 06510
(203) 946-6483*

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF CONTINUED YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION GRANT FUNDING

Over the past two years, the New Haven Board of Alders has recognized that youth violence and hopelessness have risen to crisis levels in our city and we have set as a top legislative priority to improve and increase the entire spectrum and quality of services and opportunities for youth through a comprehensive youth agenda for the city.

We are building our comprehensive youth agenda based on the beliefs that all youth should have the right to grow up in a city where they feel safe, valued, and hopeful about their future, and that we have a fundamental responsibility as elected representatives to ensure that they have access to the resources they need to be successful.

Our focus on young people is driven by the calls we have heard from our constituents citywide, that we *must* end the violence that is killing our children, and rid it from our neighborhoods. New Haven's youth are organizing to demand that we do better for them.

We are grateful that the Youth Violence Prevention Funding has enabled us to fund programs in our neighborhoods focused on youth job training and readiness, youth leadership, mentorship, and mediation, and other youth violence prevention approaches. These are the programs that our communities have called upon us to support, because their impact is transformative.

This program has touched the lives of hundreds of young people in our city, and it has the potential to support so many more. We ask for your continued support in empowering young people in our communities to step up and change the direction of our city.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Hon. Sarah Eidelson
Alder, Ward 1
Chair, Youth Services Committee

Hon. Tyisha Walker
Alder, Ward 23
Chair, Youth Facilities Working Group